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P 211457Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1407
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0127
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0290

UNCLAS ANKARA 000646

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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EUR FOR A/S FRIED
NEA FOR A/S WELCH
EEB FOR A/S SULLIVAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECIN](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [IS](#) [KWBG](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKISH, ISRAELI, PALESTINIAN BUSINESS LEADERS TO
MEET IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. JERUSALEM 512

[1](#)B. ANKARA 220

[1](#)1. (SBU) In a March 20 meeting with the Ambassador, Rifat Hisarciklioglu, the chairman of TOBB, Turkey's leading business association, described plans to hold a meeting of the Ankara Forum, which includes Hisarciklioglu,s Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, on March 26 in Washington, DC. The point of the meeting is to raise interest and political support in the United States for the Forum,s project to develop the Erez Industrial Zone in northern Gaza (see reftels). Hisarciklioglu and his advisor Guven Sak said they were making progress in negotiating "trade facilitation" and security agreements between the Turkish operating company for the zone and the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 26 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm in the Rayburn Office building. Hisarciklioglu will be joined by the heads of the Israeli Manufacturers Association, Shraga Brosh, and the Palestinian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Ahmad Zughair. Hisarciklioglu is seeking the participation of members of Congress, as well as State Department officials including Assistant Secretaries Fried, Welch, and Sullivan. Hisarciklioglu, Brosh and Zughair also plan to call on Representatives Lantos and Ros-Lehtinen, and have requested meetings with Senators Biden and Lugar, as well as World Bank President Wolfowitz.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Hisarciklioglu will seek a separate meeting with EEB A/S Sullivan to discuss the Erez project and to follow-up on the recent Economic Partnership Commission discussion of "Joint Production Opportunities." Hisarciklioglu will also be participating in American Turkish Council's annual conference and will meet senior U.S. Chamber of Commerce officials while in Washington.

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